



Winston H. Hickox
*Secretary for
Environmental
Protection*

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Rights

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Gray Davis
Governor

NOTICE OF APPLICATION T31428 REQUESTING TEMPORARY PERMIT TO DIVERT WATER FROM THE SOUTH FORK GUALALA RIVER BY THE SEA RANCH WATER COMPANY

Notice is hereby given that on May 20, 2003

The Sea Ranch Water Company
c/o Sandra Hughes
P.O. Box 16
The Sea Ranch, CA 95497

filed with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Application T31428 for a temporary permit under Water Code section 1425 et seq. The Sea Ranch Water Company (SRWC) proposes to directly divert up to 2.4 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water from the South Fork Gualala River from July 1 through December 31 of this year.

SRWC currently holds water right Permit 15358 (Application 22377), Permit 20751 (Application 29466) and Permit 20801 (Application 30438) for diversion of water via offset wells from the underflow of South Fork Gualala River for municipal supply. However, there are restrictions on their permitted diversions during the summer and fall months when the river flow is low. SRWC will need to divert water from the river during the normally restricted low flow periods while their storage reservoir is out of service for mandatory repairs this summer and fall, therefore a temporary permit is necessary.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

The Department of Water Resources' Division of Safety of Dams has required SRWC to repair and retrofit the embankments of its storage reservoir. Specifically, SRWC will be installing an internal drain in the reservoir embankment to control seepage on the face. Additionally, SRWC will be repairing and extending eroded rock armor on the inside face of the impoundment. The reservoir must be emptied in order to make the necessary repairs.

Although SRWC is currently permitted to divert from the South Fork Gualala River year round, there is currently a bypass limitation for the river of 5 cfs from June 1 through November 30 every year. Because of this bypass, SRWC relies extensively on storage in the reservoir to meet their summer water requirements. It may be necessary for diversions to occur beyond the current bypass limitation while the reservoir is out of service, therefore SRWC has filed for a temporary permit to allow the diversion.

Summary of Application for Temporary Permit:

County: Sonoma
Source: South Fork Gualala River tributary to Gualala River tributary to Pacific Ocean
Point of
Diversion: Located within the SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 16, T10N, R14W, MDB&M.
Amount: 2.4 cubic feet per second of direct diversion, not to exceed a total of 300 acre-feet
per year.

Season: July 1 through December 31

Purpose: Municipal supply
Place of Use:

Use Within	Section	Township	Range	B & M	If Irrigated	
					Number of Acres	Presently Cultivated (Y/N)
The service area of The Sea Ranch Water Company	34, 35, 36	11N	15W	MD		
	1, 2, 3, 12	10N	15W	MD		
	6, 7, 8, 16,	10N	14W	MD		
	17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 33					

COMPLIANCE WITH CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

Under provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), SWRCB is the Lead Agency for this project. SRWC has agreed to abide by operational conditions proposed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). The conditions are as follows: When the stream flow at the point of diversion (POD) is less than 5 cfs, SRWC will not divert water except between the hours of 7pm and 5am at an instantaneous rate of less than 550 gallons per minute and will provide NOAA Fisheries and DFG with weekly stream gage data. When the stream flow at the POD is less than 3 cfs, SRWC will consult with DFG and NOAA Fisheries within 24 hours on appropriate measures to protect fisheries resources. With the inclusion of these conditions, DFG and NOAA Fisheries have no further concerns that the project may cause significant environmental impacts. Division of Water Rights staff will recommend to the SWRCB that the request for a temporary permit under Application T031428 qualify for an exemption under the Categorical Exemption Class 1, in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15301. If you have any information that indicates that the proposed project will have a significant effect upon the environment, please send this information to Mr. Steven Herrera, SWRCB, Division of Water Rights, P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000.

SWRCB'S STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Pursuant to Water Code sections 1425 et seq., the SWRCB may issue a conditional, temporary permit if the following findings regarding that permit can be made:

1. The applicant has an urgent need for the water proposed to be diverted and used;
2. The water may be diverted and used without injury to any other lawful user of water;
3. The water may be diverted and used without unreasonable effect upon fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses; and
4. The proposed diversion and use are in the public interest, including findings to support permit conditions imposed to assure that water is diverted and used in the public interest, and may be made without injury to any other lawful user of the water, and without unreasonable effect upon fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses.

Pursuant to the requirements of section 1425 above, the SWRCB is seeking information to assist in the evaluation of the proposed temporary permit. Any person may file comments, objections and/or recommendations concerning SRWC's application for a temporary permit. The materials must address the issues that the SWRCB must evaluate, as set forth above. If the SWRCB cannot satisfy, in a timely manner, the provisions of section 1425 et seq., then the SWRCB may schedule and notice a hearing regarding the proposed temporary permit.

Materials filed in response to this notice must be received in writing by 3:00 p.m. on June 18, 2003 at both addresses listed below. Due to the brief noticing period, interested parties are encouraged to file comments, objections, etc., by FAX up until the deadline. However, an original copy of all materials must be received for the SWRCB to consider your concerns.

The Sea Ranch Water Company
c/o Sandra Hughes
P.O. Box 16
The Sea Ranch, CA 95497

Division of Water Rights
c/o Kathryn Gaffney
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Phone: (707) 785-2411
FAX: (707) 785-9756

Phone: (916) 341-5360
FAX: (916) 341-5400

Please address questions about this notice to Kathryn Gaffney at (916) 341-5360. If you have any questions regarding The Sea Ranch reservoir repair project you may contact Brad Clayton of SRWC at (707) 785-2411.

Edward C. Anton
Division Chief

Dated: June 3, 2003